

EXPERT APPRAISAL

on the instructor course evaluation
is a question asking the student to rate
the instructor's knowledge of the material.

the forms are submitted anonymously.

one mystery guest in my remedial English course
blacked in the dot besides "very poor."

the act raises two questions:
how could he know? and what would
(or could) he have written had he
been forced to use his own words?

A HOPEFUL PUN

at least my nails and hair
keep growing at a fast clip.

CHECK UNDER THE HOOD

the official notice that the divorce was final
came in an envelope cloaked like junk mail.
inside was a carbon with an X in the block
beside "Final dissolution of marriage."

O, he didn't expect trumpets to blare
with Claude Rains stepping forth
to read solemnly from a scroll,
but he had expected perhaps a sign
of human communication at the wire:
if not "It gives us great pleasure
to inform you," at least maybe a "Dear Sir."

but no, it was a pink copy, just like
he gets when he has his oil changed.
then he realized that's
what had happened.